

INFORMATION REPORT

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REFERENCES

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1. In December 1952, a new order was issued by the Ministry of Defense in Moscow stating that only squad or platoon leaders and first sergeants were to be NCOs (junior sergeants, sergeants, senior sergeants, and sergeants major). Until December 1952, supply personnel, orderly room personnel, mechanics, and drivers were entitled to be NCOs. The new order stated that NCOs who were not squad or platoon leaders or first sergeants would be permitted to remain NCOs until their demobilization, but that their replacements would not be given a grade higher than PFC.
2. The new order also stated that voluntary re-enlistees (sverkhsrochniki) would continue to enjoy officer privileges, but that their pay was to be cut considerably. The exact pay scales are unknown to me. However, [redacted] a voluntary re-enlistee formerly received 400 rubles and 400 East Marks monthly. Under the new scale he was to receive about 100 rubles and 200 East Marks per month.
3. The same order froze all EM in their present grades and abolished promotions for all EM except new squad and platoon leaders.
4. The official explanation for this order was that the grade of sergeant was to be strengthened by being conferred only upon men with actual leadership responsibilities. The officers, however, believed that the real reason for the order was economy.

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